

CITY OF ROCKVILLE
Department of Recreation and Parks
PLAYING RULES FOR “MINOR” LEAGUE
T-BALL

I. THE GAME

- A. The official rules of baseball shall govern all play except as amended in these rules and regulations.
- B. Each game will be five (5) innings or 65 minutes of playing time. Team manager must have team line-up ready upon arrival at the field.
- C. In case of inclement weather or suspension of game, an official game will be two (2) complete innings.
- D. The field supervisor/umpire will have complete authority at the field.
- E. Scores and standings will not be kept.
- F. Protests are not allowed.

II. FIELD DIMENSIONS

- A. The distance between bases will be 40 feet.
- B. The pitcher's defensive position must be assumed at a minimum distance of 30 feet from home plate.

III. EQUIPMENT

- A. The City of Rockville, Department of Recreation and Parks will provide equipment.
- B. Shoes must be worn at all times. No player shall wear shoes with metal spikes or metal cleats.
- C. Only official T-ball bats will be used. Wooden bats are not permitted.

IV. PLAYERS, BATTERS, RUNNERS, FIELDERS

- A. Players:
 - 1. A minimum of seven (7) players to start the game. Maximum of ten (10) players on the field to play (4 outfielders or 3 outfielders and short fielder). All outfielders must assume their defensive positions out of the infield, or beyond a designated area, defined by the umpire.
 - 2. Each player must play at least two (2) innings in the field during the game.
 - 3. **The defensive team must place priority on putting the batter/runner out at first base in a conventional manner, and only as a last alternative, throwing the ball to the catcher for the out. However, if the batter (runner) has touched second base before the defensive player has control of the ball, then the ball must be thrown to the catcher in the attempt to get the batter/runner out at home. *Note: Running with balls in possession to the first base or to the catcher (home plate) to make the out is procedurally incorrect. However, the first baseman can make an unassisted out at first base.***

B. Substitution:

1. A player may enter or leave the field or position at any time (free substitution).
2. The pitcher's, catchers, and first baseman's position must be changed every inning. Once a player has played either of these positions, he or she cannot return to the same position for the remainder of the game. However, a player may play all three positions in the game.

C. Batting Requirements

1. Teams will have a fixed batting order prepared before each game with all present team members on it. Latecomers shall be added to the end of the order.
2. Each player will take his/her turn at bat with no regard to whether or not he/she played in the field the previous inning or whether or not he/she played in the field when the team retired from the inning at bat.
3. Each batter who successfully makes contact and hits the ball the ten (10) feet minimum distance should then proceed to run the entire base order in succession. (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and home plate). The umpire may use discretion and abbreviate running the base cycle as team defensive plays warrant. A batter who successfully touches all four (4) bases in their proper order prior to the defensive team establishing control of the ball and touching home plate will constitute a run scored.

Example: If the catcher has control of the ball and is touching home plate before the batter reaches home plate, the batter is considered out;

If the ball is hit to any defensive player or whose throw is made to the first baseman and he/she has control while touching the base, the batter will be out. If the batter has reached second base successfully, the defensive team must make the play to the catcher at home plate to put the batter out.

4. An inning will end after eight (8) players have batted or a team makes five outs.
5. Bunting will not be allowed. A ball must go at least ten feet to be considered a hit (if not, it will be considered a strike).
6. A ball that is caught in the air is an out. Batter does not continue to run.
7. Five (5) strikes constitute a strike out, including foul balls and/or tip balls.
8. A batter who throws a bat in an unsportsmanlike manner so as to endanger players or spectators will be called out and may be ejected from the game. It is recommended that the umpire gives a warning for the first offense; however, this is not required.

9. Sliding at the discretion of the umpire will result in an out. The runner is out if a defensive player has the ball and the runner remains on his feet and deliberately, with force, crashes into the defensive player.
10. Overthrows, beyond the field of play, will result in the batter/runner scoring a run.

D. Pitching

1. The designated pitcher must stay within his/her required distance until the ball is hit.
2. Play stops in the following situations: 1) When the ball reaches the first baseman prior to the batter runner as provided in these rules. 2) When a batted ball is caught in the air by any defensive player. 3). When a ball is received in the area of home plate touched by the catcher before the batter/runner reaches home plate.

V. SCORING

No more than eight (8) runs may be scored by one team in a single inning. The sides change regardless of the number of outs at the time.

VI. VIOLATIONS OF MODIFICATIONS

- A. Any violations of these rules should immediately be corrected before the game continues.
- B. Continued violation of these rules may result in the coach being removed from the game.

VII. MANAGER/SPECTATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Managers must have team line-up ready upon arrival at the field.
2. All managers are responsible for their teams taking the field promptly before games and vacating the field and dugout area promptly after games.
3. Each manager shall designate a “dugout dad” or “dugout mom” to be responsible for bench conduct by the players.
4. All players must remain in the dugout area during the game.
5. Managers are responsible for the behavior of their team players and parents. Sportsmanship is mandatory in all aspects of the game. Chanting (yelling in unison) or heckling of the other team or its players is not permitted.
6. Smoking is not allowed in the field or dugout area.
7. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the premises.